

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00114 100712Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13
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R 091650Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2512
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY MASERU

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PINT,SF (TRANSKEI)
SUBJECT: MATANZIMA RATTLES HIS ASSEGAI

REF: 76 DURBAN A-79

1. TRANSKEIAN PRIME MINISTER, CHIEF KAISER MATANZIMA,
OPENED THE ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE RULING TRANSKEIAN
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY IN UMTATA ON MARCH 8
WITH A SPEECH WHICH THREATENED WAR WITH SOUTH AFRICA
UNLESS LANDS CLAIMED BY TRANSKEI BUT OCCUPIED BY
SOUTH AFRICA ARE CEDED TO TRANSKEI. WHILE A COMPLETE
TEXT OF HIS SPEECH IS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO THE
POST, PRESS REPORTS QUOTE MATANZIMA AS SAYING:"IT
IS MY HOPE THERE WILL BE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT ON
THIS ISSUE AS I SHUDDER TO CONTEMPLATE THE
CONSEQUENCES OF THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF
SETTLEMENT--AN ARMED STRUGGLE.... BY MEANS OF AN
ARMED STRUGGLE FOR WHICH WE SHALL HAVE TO PREPARE
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WE SHALL TAKE THE LAND UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR
THE SETTLEMENT OF OUR LANDLESS POPULATION." HE ADDED
THAT NORMALIZATION OF HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN
TRANSKEI AND SOUTH AFRICA WOULD DEPEND ON THE
TRANSFER OF THE LAND AND THAT NO TIME SHOULD BE
LOST IN ARRIVING AT AN AMICABLE SETTLEMENT.

2. IN THE SPEECH THE PM MADE NEW POINTS CONCERNING TRANSKEIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE STATUS OF COLOREDS IN HIS COUNTRY. ON THE COMPLEX QUESTION OF TRANSKEIAN RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SAG, HE STATED THAT AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED WITH THE SAG THAT "TRANSKEIAN SUBJECTS WILL NOT BE UNDER THE CARE OF THE NOTORIOUS AND ANTI-BLACK BANTU ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS ...BUT UNDER THE SOPHISTICATED AND GENTLE OFFICERS OF THE REPUBLICAN DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS." ADDRESSING THE COLORED QUESTION, HE ANNOUNCED THAT COLOREDS COULD, FOR THE FIRST TIME, REGISTER AS CITIZENS AND ENJOY PROPERTY RIGHTS IN TRANSKEI.

3. TRANSKEI' CLAIM TO LANDS OCCUPIED BY SOUTH AFRICA IS NOT NEW AND WAS LAST GIVEN PROMINENCE BY MATANZIMA IMMEDIATELY AFTER INDEPENDENCE LAST YEAR (SEE REFAIR). HOWEVER, IN HIS LATEST DEMAND HE HAS OMITTED CLAIMS TO CERTAIN LANDS SOUTH-EAST OF QUEENSTOWN (HEMU, KAMASTONE), THAT ARE IN THE CISKEI. NEVERTHELESS, HE HAS REITERATED HIS CLAIM TO THE DISTRICTS OF ELLIOT AND MACLEAR WEST OF TRANSKEI AND FARMS IN THE CEDARVILLE, MATATIELE, MOUNT CURRIE, HARDING AND PORT SHEPSTONE AREAS EAST OF TRANSKEI. PARTS OF THESE LATTER REGIONS ARE, OR ARE DESIGNATED TO BE, INCORPORATED INTO KWAZULU, WHILE THE REST ARE TO REMAIN PART OF WHITE SOUTH AFRICA. IN AN UNEXPECTED DEPARTURE HE APPEALED OVER THE HEAD OF THE SAG TO WHIEES IN THE AFFECTED AREAS TO ENTER NEGOTIATION ON TRANSKEI' BEHALF. THIS, HE STATED, WOULD ALLOW THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHITES TO RETAIN OWNERSHIP OF THEIR PROPERTIES UNDER THE TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT AND ENJOY THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP.

4. MATANZIMA' UNEXPECTED BELLIGERENCY TOWARD THE SAG OVER THE LAND ISSUE HAS RECEIVED VERY PROMINENT ATTENTION IN THE LOCAL PRESS AND ON THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED TELEVISION AND RADIO. FOR ITS PART, THE KWAZULU GOVERNMENT MAY CHOOSE TO REPLY, AND THERE HAS BEEN PRESS SPECULATION THAT NOT ONLY THE TRANSKEI CLAIMS TO PART OF KWAZULU BUT ZULU CLAIMS TO THE NORTHERN THIRD OF TRANSKEI WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE KWAZULU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SCHEDULED TO CONVENE MARCH 16.

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